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THE WORLD'S BEST NEWS & FACTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

SCIENCE
New design for NASA spacesuits
p15

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ANIMALS
Secrets of elephant wrinkles
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Making sense of the world

THE WEEK Junior

THE BEST MAGAZINE FOR CURIOUS KIDS

A TIME FOR GRATITUDE

Find out what you can do to make the season special p24

ANCIENT CREATURES
The first corals appeared about 540 to 485 million years ago, which makes them older than the dinosaurs.

Divers examine the massive coral.

US ship to become a reef

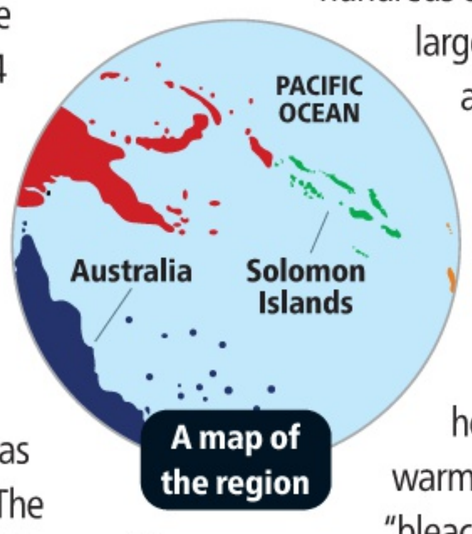
A once-glamorous ocean liner larger than the Titanic is set to become the world's largest artificial reef, providing habitat for marine life and protecting the shoreline. The SS United States (above) sailed between Europe and the US from 1952 to 1969. It will be towed from Pennsylvania and sunk off the Gulf Coast of Florida.

World's largest coral found

On November 14, scientists announced the discovery of the world's largest coral—an undersea formation so large that it can be seen from space. It was found during a scientific expedition in the southwestern Pacific Ocean.

What happened?

A team of scientists from National Geographic was studying the effects of climate change on oceans near the Solomon Islands, an archipelago (string of islands) spanning more than 900 miles northeast of Australia. From the surface, the team spotted what they thought was a shipwreck underwater. A diver discovered that it was a mega coral. They used a measuring tape to determine that it was about 111 feet wide, 104 feet long, and 18 feet high. That's wide enough to fit two full-size basketball courts side by side and longer than the world's largest animal, the blue whale. It is three times larger than "Big Momma," the coral in American Samoa that was previously the largest known coral. The newly found coral is about 300 to 500 years old.



A map of the region

Why is coral important?

Coral is a living creature and a vital part of a healthy ocean. Hundreds of millions of people around the world rely on it for food, income, and safety. Coral provides habitat and breeding grounds for 25% of the world's marine species, including shrimp, crabs, and fish, which are a main source of food for many people. Coral also brings tourists to coastal regions, which supports local economies. And healthy coral reefs protect shorelines from waves and flooding during storms and hurricanes. Coral also seeds the ocean with baby corals, which help keep the species alive.

Why is this coral significant?

Coral often forms a reef, which is a network of hundreds of individual corals that make up one large structure. This finding, however, is a single coral that is made up of hundreds of millions of polyps (tiny, soft-bodied organisms that are related to jellyfish). It is also very healthy, which is surprising at a time when climate change is heating the world's oceans. In warm water, coral loses nutrients and "bleaches" (turns white), which can cause it to die off. About 75% of the world's coral reefs have faced bleaching since early 2023. This coral's health and age suggest that it may be able to resist bleaching and other stresses. The team thinks that may be because its position is about 32 feet under the ocean's surface, in a cooler environment than other corals live in, but it may also have a tolerance to warm water.

How did people react?

The researchers were thrilled. "Finding this mega coral is like discovering the tallest tree on Earth," said Enric Sala, a member of the team that found it. "This discovery rekindles our sense of awe and wonder about the ocean." Others said the finding inspired optimism about conservation as well as motivation to explore further. Jeremiah Manele, prime minister of the Solomon Islands, said, "Our survival depends on healthy coral...so this exciting discovery underlines the importance of protecting and sustaining them for future generations."

What will happen next?

Scientists will study the coral to understand how it might help with conservation work in the Solomon Islands and elsewhere. The discovery may also help the islands earn status as an official marine protected area. "This is something huge for our community," said Dennis Marita, a government official and member of the Po'onapaina Tribe of Ulawa, which oversees the marine territory where the coral was found. "This mega coral will help bring much-needed visibility and recognition."

MANU SAN FÉLIX, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PRISTINE SEAS; SS UNITED STATES CONSERVANCY; GETTY IMAGES

Global measles cases on the rise

On November 14, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said there were about 10.3 million measles cases worldwide in 2023, up from about 8.7 million in 2022. About 107,500 people, mostly children, died from measles in 2023. Falling vaccination rates caused the 20% spike in cases.

Measles is a highly contagious but preventable disease that can have serious complications, particularly for babies, children, and people with existing medical problems. A two-dose vaccine prevents measles, but in 2023, more than 22 million children worldwide did not get it. About 83% of children received the first dose, and about 74% received the second dose.

The drop in vaccination rates is due to problems with distribution and access to the vaccine in many countries. The WHO and the CDC called for urgent, targeted vaccination programs. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, head of the WHO, said, "We must invest in immunization for every person, no matter where they live."

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

A conservation expert working on *The Night Watch*

ARTIST'S SPACE
The Dutch artist Rembrandt's home in Amsterdam is now a museum where visitors can stand in his studio.

Painting restoration begins

A museum in the Netherlands is restoring one of the world's most famous paintings and inviting the public to watch. Visitors to the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam can observe through a glass wall as conservation experts work on *The Night Watch*, painted in 1642 by celebrated Dutch artist Rembrandt van Rijn (1606–1669).

To prepare for the artwork's restoration, called "Operation Night Watch," museum officials spent five years analyzing the massive oil painting, which is 15 feet wide and 12½ feet high, with high-tech scans and other methods. On November 12, eight experts wearing masks and gloves began gently removing a varnish (clear, hard protective coating) from the painting. The varnish was applied during a restoration in the 1970s but has turned yellow, changing the masterpiece's appearance.

The team is using brushes to gently apply small pieces of tissue that contain a solvent. This substance turns the old varnish into liquid, which is then absorbed by the tissue. Next, the experts will look through a microscope to spot any remaining varnish, which they will remove with cotton swabs.

After the varnish is removed, the painting will temporarily look gray and dull. Once it is fully cleaned, the conservators will apply a new varnish that will brighten the masterpiece. This process will take two to three years.

Operation Night Watch begins another chapter in the story of the famous painting, which was hidden in a cave during World War II (1939–1945) and has survived two knife attacks. Taco Dibbits, the Rijksmuseum's director, said the museum "is filled with anticipation."

IT'S AN AMAZING WEEK FOR...

HOPE FOR A SPECIES

The birth of a siamang gibbon at ZooTampa in Florida is great news for the endangered Asian species. The newborn, which is sticking close to its mom for food and warmth, has "brought a lot of hope," said a zoo spokesperson.

The baby siamang

Three new bells

A BEAUTIFUL SOUND

Bells rang out at Notre Dame cathedral in Paris, France, for the first time since it was badly damaged by a fire in 2019. Restoration of the landmark church is nearly complete, and it is set to reopen on December 8. "Every day the cathedral is more beautiful," an official said.

A HERO DOG

A bloodhound named Bo has been chosen as winner of the 2024 American Humane Hero Dog Awards, which honor "ordinary dogs who do extraordinary things," according to the organization that gives them out. The police K9 from North Carolina has been on the job for about a year but has already saved several people.

Bo and his partner

ON THE COVER: GETTY IMAGES (2); DISNEY; AXIOM SPACE; COURTESY THE PUBLISHER; ON THIS PAGE: COURTESY OF THE RIJKSMUSEUM; GETTY IMAGES; ZOO TAMPA; AP; AMERICAN HUMANE

WOW!
At a length of 23.87 miles, the Lake Pontchartrain Causeway in Louisiana is the world's longest bridge built entirely over water.

The Federal courthouse in Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Louisiana fact file

- **CAPITAL:** Baton Rouge
- **POPULATION:** 4.6 million
- **HISTORY:** Joined the US in 1812 as the 18th state
- **SIZE:** 33rd largest state
- **GEOGRAPHY:** Borders Arkansas, Mississippi, Texas, and the Gulf of Mexico
- **ECONOMY:** Includes tourism, retail, and drilling for gas and oil

Louisiana judge blocks controversial law

A federal judge has blocked a new law in Louisiana that would require the Ten Commandments, which are religious directives from the Bible, to be posted in public classrooms. The judge ruled that the state law violates the Constitution (highest law in the US), which prohibits the government from promoting religion.

What is the background on the law?

In June, Louisiana Governor Jeff Landry, a Republican, signed a law that would require the Ten Commandments to be displayed in the state's public K–12 and public college classrooms. Nine Louisiana families filed a lawsuit (legal dispute) against the state for violating their Constitutional rights. State officials argued that even though the Ten Commandments are from the Bible, the government can require them to be posted in classrooms because they hold historical significance to the foundation of US law.

What did the judge rule?

In his decision, US District Judge John deGravelles said the law had an "overtly religious" purpose and was "unconstitutional." He ordered state officials not to enforce the law, which is set to go into effect in 2025. The Fifth US Circuit Court of Appeals upheld DeGravelles' ruling.

How did people react?

Christopher Dier, a history educator who was Louisiana's Teacher of the Year in 2020, said he agreed with DeGravelles' ruling. Public schools should not make students feel like they must follow one specific religion, he said: "We want our students to feel included." Nicole Hunt, representing the Christian advocacy group Focus on the Family, told CBS News she favored the law because the Ten Commandments serve as "moral guidelines" for individuals and for society.

What will happen next?

The state has appealed the decision, so the case will go to a higher court to determine whether the law will stand. Until a decision is reached, only the school districts of the nine families who filed the lawsuit are exempt from displaying the Ten Commandments. By January 1, 2025, the 67 districts throughout the state that were not named in the lawsuit will be required to post the Ten Commandments, unless the courts say otherwise.

WORD OF THE WEEK

TINTINNABULATION

The bells of Notre Dame in Paris, France, rang out for the first time since 2019. The word "tintinnabulation" is pronounced tin-tin-ab-u-lay-shun, and its rhythmical tinkling sound is designed to echo the sound that bells produce. It is based on the Latin *tinnire*, which means to "ring" or "tinkle."

THE WEEK IN HISTORY

November 27, 1973

Gerald Ford confirmed as Vice President

On November 27, 1973, the US Senate confirmed Gerald R. Ford as Vice President in the administration of President Richard Nixon. Nixon's previous Vice President, Spiro Agnew, resigned after facing charges of corruption. In 1974, Nixon resigned after his involvement with Watergate, a political scandal, and Ford became President. He served until 1977, after having never campaigned for either office.

Gerald Ford

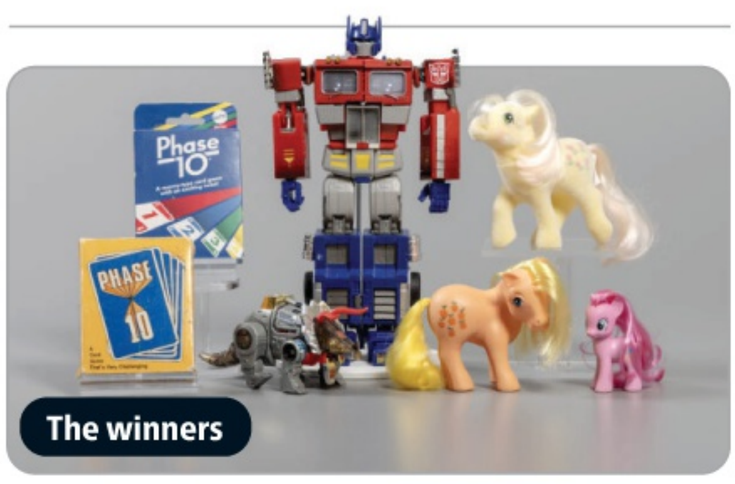
John Thune

Senate Majority Leader chosen

After Republicans won a majority of Senate seats in this year's election, they met to select a new top leader, known as the Majority Leader. In a secret ballot on November 13, John Thune of South Dakota defeated John Cornyn of Texas, 29 to 24. Thune will begin his role when the next Congress meets for the first time on January 3, 2025. The Republicans' current leader, Mitch McConnell, will step down from his leadership position but remain a senator.

New women's sports network

A new platform dedicated exclusively to female athletes, teams, and leagues has been launched by TV personality and social justice advocate Whoopi Goldberg. The All Women's Sports Network is the first of its kind and will offer more than 2,000 hours of live programming in 2024–2025. "Our goal is to have the largest distributed female sports network in the world," Goldberg said.



The winners

Toys inducted into Hall of Fame

My Little Pony, the Phase 10 card game, and Transformers action figures were chosen from among 12 finalists to be inducted into the National Toy Hall of Fame in Rochester, New York. "These are three very deserving toys that showcase the wide range of how people play," said Hall of Fame spokesperson Christopher Bensch. My Little Pony was a finalist seven times before being selected this year.

GETTY IMAGES (4); AWSN; NTHOF; ON LEFT PAGE: USCT; GETTY IMAGES (4)

FAMOUS NAME
At least 10 public schools in the US are named after Harriet Tubman.

A statue of Harriet Tubman at the Maryland State House

Harriet Tubman honored in Maryland

A ceremony was held on November 11 to officially recognize Harriet Tubman for her military service to both the US and the state of Maryland during the Civil War (1861–1865). At the commemoration, held at the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad State Park in Church Creek, Maryland, Tubman was given the rank of one-star brigadier general in the state's National Guard (part of the US military).

Tubman was born enslaved in Maryland in 1822. She escaped slavery at about age 27 and settled in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where she worked to abolish slavery. She was active in running the Underground Railroad, a secret network of safe houses that is credited with guiding as many as 100,000 enslaved people to freedom.

Harriet Tubman in about 1868

Besides her work with the Underground Railroad, Tubman was the first woman to oversee American military action during a time of war. She served as a scout and spy for the US Army, and in 1863 she commanded a major military operation that freed more than 700 enslaved people in South Carolina. Tubman also served as a nurse during the war, treating wounded US soldiers. After the war, she advocated for women's right to vote, helped improve the lives of Black Americans, and founded a home for the elderly and people in need. She died in 1913 at age 91.

Dozens of people attended the ceremony, including local leaders, military officials, and Tubman's descendants. Tina Wyatt, Tubman's great-great-great-grandniece, accepted the proclamation on Tubman's behalf. "She gave up any rights she had gained for herself to fight for others," Wyatt said.

In his remarks, Maryland Governor Wes Moore said the ceremony was a great day for Maryland and the entire nation. "There is nobody who defined 'leave no one behind' in a way that General Tubman left no one behind," he said.

THE WEEK'S SILLIEST HEADLINE

"Raccoon drops from ceiling at LaGuardia airport and goes on the run" *CNN*

Around the world

Colombo, Sri Lanka
Party sweeps into power

In elections on November 14, the party of president Anura Kumara Dissanayake secured a big majority in Sri Lanka's parliament (similar to Congress). The National People's Power party won 159 of the 225 seats, which means it can pass laws without support from other parties. Dissanayake, who took office in September, has promised to create a new constitution (highest law), fight poverty, and punish dishonest officials.

The new port

Chancay, Peru
Megaport funded by China opens

China's leader, Xi Jinping, watched on a livestream with Peruvian president Dina Boluarte as a large deep-water port opened in Peru on November 14. China has invested more than $1 billion in the megaport, which is designed to improve trade between South America and Asia. Xi said the port will create jobs for people in Peru, but locals complain that it has ruined access to fishing spots in the remote fishing town where it was built.

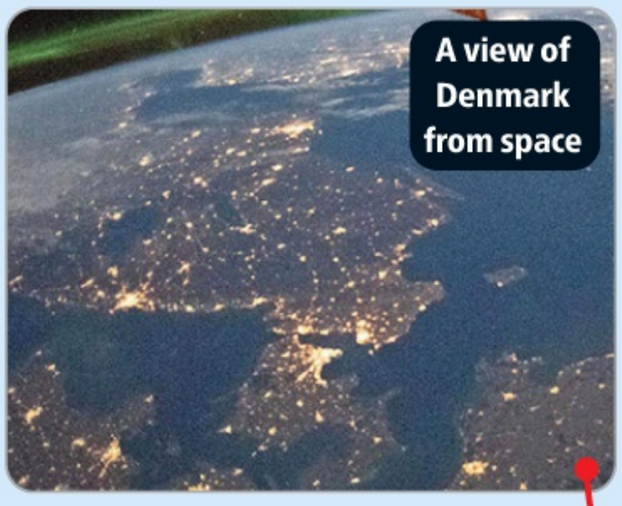
The surfers in action

Santos, Brazil
Surfers attempt world record

Three hundred surfers over age 50 came together on November 10 to try to break the world record for the most people riding the same wave. A surf school that teaches older adults organized the stunt. They managed to get 98 surfers on the same wave, which fell short of the current record of 110. Surfer Christiane Melin said, "It's a really great sensation to ride the waves."

Copenhagen, Denmark
Country signs space accords

In a ceremony on November 13, Denmark became the 48th country to sign the Artemis Accords, an international agreement for peaceful space exploration. The agreement was created in 2020 by the US and seven other countries, including the UK, Canada, Italy, and Japan. It sets out principles for conducting activities in space responsibly.


A view of Denmark from space

Iquique, Chile
Residents try to protect historical sites

Local residents in Iquique have been working with authorities to try to protect the area's giant geoglyphs. A geoglyph is a large design created on the ground using materials like stone and earth. Northern Chile has hundreds of giant geoglyphs that are more than 1,000 years old, but many have been damaged by vehicles driving over them. Locals say they are important historical sites and need to be protected.

A geoglyph in the Atacama desert

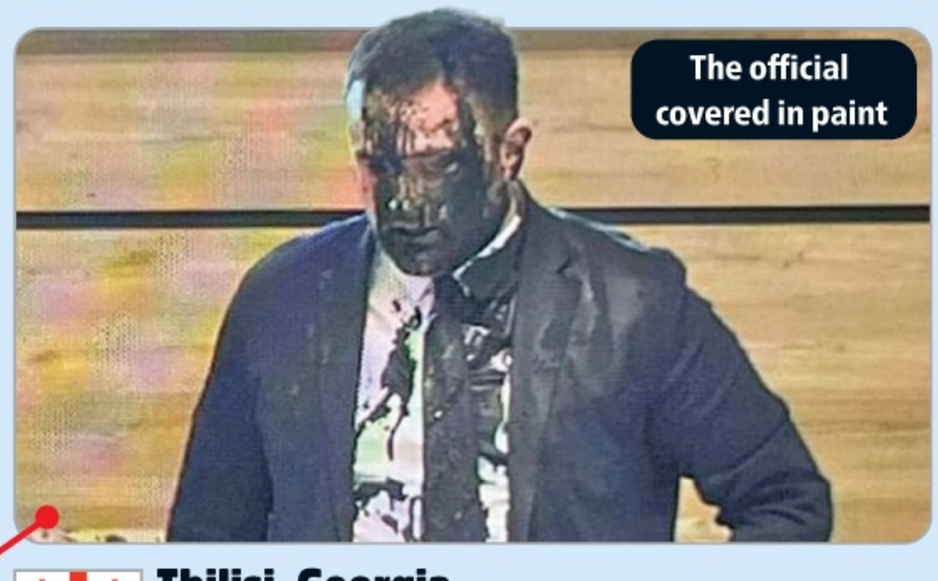
SPACE AND DEFENSE; GETTY IMAGES (3); @GEORGIA_TODAY/IG; REUTERS (3); SHUTTERSTOCK (2)

Around the world

Inside the museum

Moscow, Russia
Gulag History Museum closes

On November 14, the Gulag History Museum in Moscow closed. The museum tells the story of gulags, which were camps where millions of people were imprisoned and forced to work from 1919 to 1957. Authorities said the museum was closed for safety reasons, but critics say Russia's government is trying to hide the country's past.


The official covered in paint

Tbilisi, Georgia
Paint thrown on election official

The final results of Georgia's national election were confirmed in Tbilisi, the capital city, on November 16. The Georgian Dream Party, which was already in power, was named the winner. However, tens of thousands of people have protested, saying the election wasn't held fairly. After the result was announced, a member of an opposing party threw paint at the country's top election official in protest.

Homes under water in Ilagan

The Philippines
Cleanup begins after typhoon

People have started cleaning up the damage left behind by super typhoon (tropical storm) Man-yi, which reached its peak on November 16. Scientists say storms have recently become more frequent and intense in the Philippines due to climate change. Man-yi is the sixth storm to strike the country since late October. More than 650,000 people had to flee their homes, and many took shelter in evacuation centers as the storm approached.

Tourists in Lopburi

Lopburi, Thailand
Putting an end to monkey business

Authorities in Lopburi have rounded up the town's long-tailed macaques and put them in large enclosures. The monkeys used to be popular with tourists, who fed them and took selfies. But ever since the coronavirus lockdowns, when fewer people were out and about, the animals have caused chaos by fighting, stealing food, and taking over buildings.

Paris, France
Changing how ballerinas are chosen

For the first time since 1860, Paris Opera Ballet, the world's oldest national ballet company, plans to change the way dancers are selected for shows. On November 16, instead of making all 154 of the company's dancers perform an exam onstage to win ranks and roles, about 50 were asked to audition. This cuts stress for other dancers, but some people say all dancers should be given a chance to show their talent.

Paris Opera Ballet dancers

Should adults be phone-free outside schools?

Some schools are asking adults to stash their phones at afternoon pickup.

What you need to know

- **Research has shown that spending too much time on a smartphone can harm people's mental health.**
- **The Kaiser Family Foundation reported that in the US, people between ages 8 and 18 spend an average of 7.5 hours a day on screens.**
- **A survey in 2023 found that Americans check their phones an average of 144 times a day.**
- **In a 2024 poll, 46% of teens said their parents are sometimes distracted by a phone during conversations.**

DID YOU KNOW?
Smartphones have been banned in classrooms across Italy since 2007.

Some schools have started asking parents and caregivers to put their phones away when they pick up their kids in the afternoon. They say students who are excited to be picked up at the end of a long day often find their parents staring into their phones. Some parents have been happy to oblige, while others disagree with the request. Many adults say they're just trying to keep up with their busy lives and jobs and there's no harm in it. In fact, they use the time to book appointments, read the news, or send important emails, which frees them up to spend time with their kids afterward. What do you think? Should adults be phone-free outside schools?

Yes—adults should set an example

Many children have limits on how much time they're allowed to spend on screens each day. If adults are standing outside the school looking at their phones, they're not setting a very good example about managing screen time. Too much time staring at a device is not just bad for kids. It's bad for adults too. Having to put their phones away would allow them to slow down, be more mindful, and stay in the moment. They could use the time to socialize with other parents and maybe even make some new friends. Plus, it would be nice for children to come out and see an adult who's excited to greet them.

No—adults can make their own choices

Schools don't need to set rules for grown-ups who should be allowed to make their own decisions about when, where, and how they use their phones. Sometimes adults can end up waiting at school for a while if class goes long or their child forgets something and has to run back inside. And it's not like adults are only using their phones for games or mindless activities. Most of the time, they're trying to stay connected to the world. They're reading the news or handling messages and calls from work or family members they take care of. Phones are like a family hub, and looking at them is just a regular part of life nowadays.

YES Three reasons adults should be phone-free outside schools

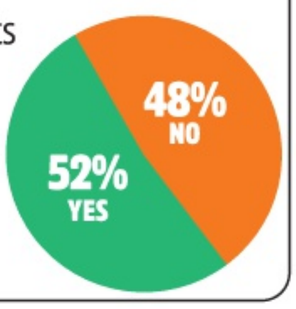
1. **Grown-ups should set a good example for young people by not spending so much time on their phones.**
2. **Without phones, adults would be more likely to talk to other parents.**
3. **It's so nice for kids to come out of school and see the face of an adult who looks happy to greet them.**

NO Three reasons adults should not be phone-free outside schools

1. **Adults can make their own decisions and don't need to be told what to do by schools.**
2. **Grown-ups are busy people who often have to wait at school for a long time. Why not put that time to good use?**
3. **People check their phones for news or important messages or calls from work or family. They're just a part of life now.**

LAST WEEK'S POLL

Last week, we asked if hotels should ban single-use toiletries. Your votes on the petite products were close: 52% of you said yes, and 48% said no.



What do you think?

Now that you've read a bit more about this issue, visit kids.theweekjunior.com/polls so you can vote in our debate. Vote YES if you think adults should be phone-free outside schools or NO if you don't. We'll publish the results next week.

The goal of the big debate is to present two sides of an issue fairly in order to stimulate discussion and allow our readers to make up their minds. The views on this page do not reflect those of *The Week Junior*, and the page is not funded by third parties.

SHUTTERSTOCK

A job at the tip of the world

George Clarke of Bristol, England, has been appointed postmaster general of Port Lockroy, a small island in Antarctica. It's the world's southernmost post office, established in 1944. Before beginning his five-month assignment, Clarke spoke to *The Week Junior*.

What made you apply for the position?
I read an article about someone who had worked at the post office. I never expected to get the job, but I thought, why not? It sounds like an adventure.

What will your duties be?
People come to the island to send postcards and letters home, as well as collect stamps to commemorate their time here, and all of that will now go through me.

The "penguin post office"

How do you prepare for Antarctic life?
We received cold-weather gear and training, and we spoke to people who had worked there before to get their advice. We were encouraged to bring things to keep us busy. As an artist, I'm bringing sketchbooks, and we're all bringing books to share.

Who else will be going?
There are five of us on the core team. Some will be doing wildlife monitoring and running the gift shop. Later in the season, carpenters will join to restore the historic huts, which are threatened by climate change.

What are you most looking forward to?
The penguins! There are thousands of penguins on the island. We'll be keeping an eye on them and their population numbers. We had training at the British Antarctic Survey, including a lecture from a "penguinologist" who taught us about their behaviors.

What does the role mean to you?
The whole idea is to conserve Antarctic heritage. I love the idea of helping to keep the story of this place going.

George Clarke

BRRR! Approximately 98% of Antarctica is covered in ice. That's about 90% of all the ice on Earth.

An education honor

An elementary school in Swedeborg, Missouri, has renamed its building after Claudene Wilson, a custodian who worked there for 30 years and retired in July. Wilson was known for going beyond her regular duties by helping with bus driving, lunch duty, and more. In August, the school board voted unanimously to rename the school building the Claudene Wilson Learning Center in honor of her hard work and dedication. Wilson was very surprised. "I'm not here to be the center of attention," she said. "I'm here to help kids out."

Claudene Wilson

Lamine Yamal

Making sports history

At the 2024 Ballon d'Or awards (top prize in soccer) on October 28, 17-year-old Spanish soccer star Lamine Yamal became the youngest-ever winner of the Kopa Trophy, an award given to the world's best-performing player under the age of 21. Yamal, who is from Barcelona, joined FC Barcelona at age 7 and played his first professional match at age 15, becoming the youngest player ever to represent the team. This past summer, he helped Spain win the European Championship. Yamal called his award an "honor" and said, "When you enjoy yourself, everything comes off better."

OVERHEARD

"That's how I learned about 'skibidi toilet.'"
Abbott Elementary creator and star Quinta Brunson on what she has learned from her young co-stars

COURTESY OF UKAHT; UKAHT/JEROME VIARD; SWEDEBORG SCHOOL DISTRICT; GETTY IMAGES (2)

TOOTH TRUTH
Cattle have no upper front teeth. Instead, they have an area of hard tissue called a "dental pad."

Two tauros grazing

More about aurochs

The aurochs was Europe's third-heaviest land mammal, behind the woolly mammoth and woolly rhinoceros. Standing about 6 feet tall, they had black fur and forward-curving horns. Aurochs could live in a variety of habitats, including swamps and mountains, and are thought to be the ancestors of all modern cattle.

An aurochs skull

Cattle breed replaces a lost species

For hundreds of thousands of years, a species of wild cattle known as aurochs (see box at top right) roamed Europe, Asia, and northern Africa. By the 17th century, due to hunting and deforestation (cutting down large areas of trees), aurochs lived only in Poland. In 1627, they became extinct. Now a research project will introduce a modern-day replacement, the tauros, back into Europe for the first time.

As part of the project, experts cross-bred several types of domestic cattle to produce an animal similar to the aurochs. This cross-breeding resulted in the tauros—big, muscular cattle with long horns. Now an organization called Trees for Life wants to introduce a herd of up to 15 tauros to an estate near Loch Ness in Scotland in 2026.

A female tauros

The project's leaders hope the tauros will help rewild the landscape. Rewilding is the process of letting developed land return to its natural state, often by putting animals or plants back into a habitat. The goal is for nature to be able to take care of itself and support many species of wildlife without human interference.

Tauros could help because they move across the land in herds, grazing heavily in some areas but not touching others. This creates different kinds of habitats for other living things. Bulls (males) also carve bowl-shaped dents in the earth with their horns or hooves. They bash their heads against the sides of these bowls to strengthen their neck muscles, which makes the pits bigger. The hollowed-out pits then fill with water and form miniature habitats that support insects, small mammals, birds, and plants.

Tauros are also useful for rewilding because plants' seeds get caught in their fur and then fall off in other places as the animals move across the landscape. New plants can then grow. Even tauros poop is helpful. It contains nutrients, which makes soil healthier and provides food for insects.

Project leaders hope that by playing this crucial role, the tauros will soon fill the gap left by their ancestors' disappearance. Steve Micklewright from Trees for Life said, "These remarkable wild cattle can be a powerful ally" for protecting the environment.

PLACE OF THE WEEK

Greenville Cypress Preserve, Mississippi

The Greenville Cypress Preserve is part of the Mississippi Delta, the northwest region of the state between the Mississippi and Yazoo rivers. Cypress trees have grown in the area for more than a century, with three strands currently in the 16-acre preserve. Trails allow people to explore the preserve and its patches of wildflowers, and boardwalks extend over the scenic swamps, where the cypress trees rise out of the water. Visitors may see herons, butterflies, salamanders, and alligators, while opossums and beavers are active during the night.

A beaver

WOW!
An elephant's trunk has about 46,000 muscles—more than 65 times as many as the entire human body.

African savanna elephants

What elephants' wrinkles reveal

Just as humans are usually left- or right-handed, elephants tend to have a preference for using their trunks to one side. A left-trunked elephant scoops things up toward the left of its body, while a right-trunked elephant will go the other way. Scientists have now learned that they can tell whether an elephant is left- or right-trunked by its wrinkles.

Researchers from Humboldt University of Berlin, in Germany, studied wrinkle patterns on trunks. They noticed that left-trunked elephants had more wrinkles on the left side of their trunk because the skin became more creased after repeatedly bending in that direction. The elephants scuffed the right side of their trunk on the ground as they curled to the left, so the whiskers on the right also wore away and became shorter.

Since wrinkles develop over time, older elephants are more wrinkly than young calves. The team also found that Asian elephants' trunks become about 50% more wrinkly than those of African savanna elephants. Having more wrinkles may also make the animals' trunks more flexible.

Animal of the week: Comb jelly

Scientists recently discovered that after being injured, two comb jellies had merged their bodies and digestive systems together in order to survive. These see-through sea creatures, also called ctenophores, are related to jellyfish.

- **LIFE SPAN:** Thought to be up to 3 years
- **HABITAT:** Most ocean regions
- **SIZE:** From microscopic to about 5 feet
- **DIET:** Zooplankton, eggs, and small fish
- **FUN FACT:** Many comb jellies can use proteins in their bodies to create a blue or green glow.

Good week / Bad week

California's coast

A new marine sanctuary is being created to protect about 4,500 square miles of waters along the central California shoreline. Co-managed by local tribal communities, it will help at-risk species including whales, sea turtles, and sea otters.

Monkeys in Hong Kong

A Hong Kong zoo reported that 12 monkeys had died in less than two weeks, apparently from an infection caused by bacteria in the soil. Several species were affected, including De Brazza's monkeys (above) and cotton-top tamarins.

GETTY IMAGES (4); ALAMY; ON LEFT PAGE: GRAZELANDS REWILDING; ALAMY (4)

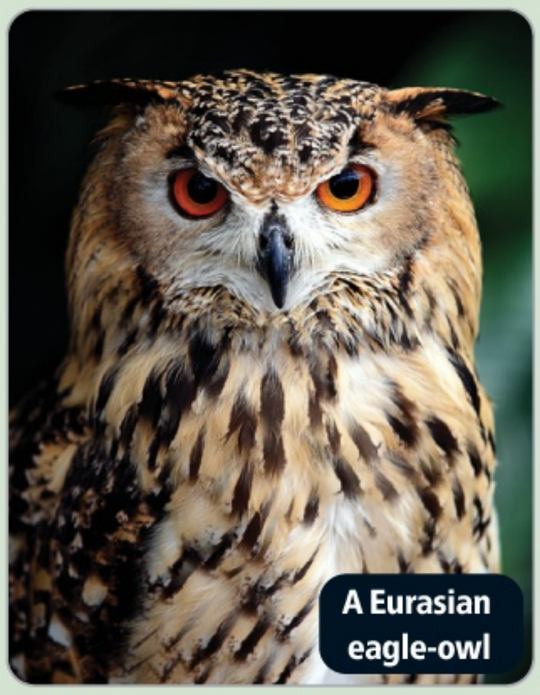
Ask an expert

"How are owls able to hunt and navigate at night?"

Maddy 10, California

Mollye Nardi
General curator, Birmingham Zoo

Owls' large eyes allow them to see well at night, but in total darkness they rely on hearing alone. Their face shape works like a dish antenna: Feathers around the face direct sound waves to their ears, which are positioned in a way that helps them determine the location of their prey.



A Eurasian eagle-owl

Do you have a question for an animal expert? Send it to *hello@theweekjunior.com*. Find out more about the Birmingham Zoo at birminghamzoo.com.

The history of a rich

The first butter may have been invented by delicious accident.

The making of butter dates back thousands of years. Find out how it became a common staple in home and restaurant kitchens.

A dairy cow

What is butter?

The word "butter" comes from the Greek word *bouturon*, which translates to "cow cheese." Butter is a dairy product made by whipping (beating) or churning (mixing) milk or cream until the butterfat (natural fat) rises to the top or separates from the rest of the cream. After straining the milk, what's left is creamy, smooth butter. It can be made with milk from different milk-producing animals, such as cows, goats, sheep, or buffalo. The animals' diet can change the butter's color—from white to deep yellow. Butter can vary in consistency, from liquid to solid.

Butter is churned in France.

Early history

No one is sure exactly when butter was first made. One theory is that it was invented by accident in ancient Africa in about 8000 BCE, when a sheepherder strapped sheep's milk to the back of one of his sheep. He later discovered that, while the milk jostled in travel, it had curdled into delicious butter. Throughout prehistoric times, humans took milk from animals—including camels—to make butter. As nomadic tribes moved from place to place, they brought their butter-making skills with them. By the Middle Ages (478–1450 CE), most of Europe was using butter, which was considered inexpensive nourishment. By the 1100s, butter was popular across northern Europe and used in cooking to add rich flavor to foods.

The average American eats about 6.3 pounds of butter—about 25 sticks—per year.

Butter sculptures

The first butter cows

In the early 1900s, state fairs began a tradition of featuring cow sculptures made of butter. For example, a boy, cow, and calf (right) were sculpted from butter for the 1911 Iowa State Fair.

A farm scene

Snow White's dwarfs

In 2012, in honor of the 75th anniversary of the film *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, the famous Iowa butter artist Sarah Pratt used about 1,200 pounds of butter to sculpt the Disney princess and her friends. She included details like Grumpy's pout, Dopey's big ears, and Doc's round spectacles (right).

GETTY IMAGES (5); SHUTTERSTOCK (3); IOWA STATE FAIR (2)

and creamy favorite

GLOBAL LEADER
India produces about 58% of the world's butter—more than any other country.

DID YOU KNOW?
In ancient Rome, butter was used as a remedy for wounds and sore throats.

A modern butter churn

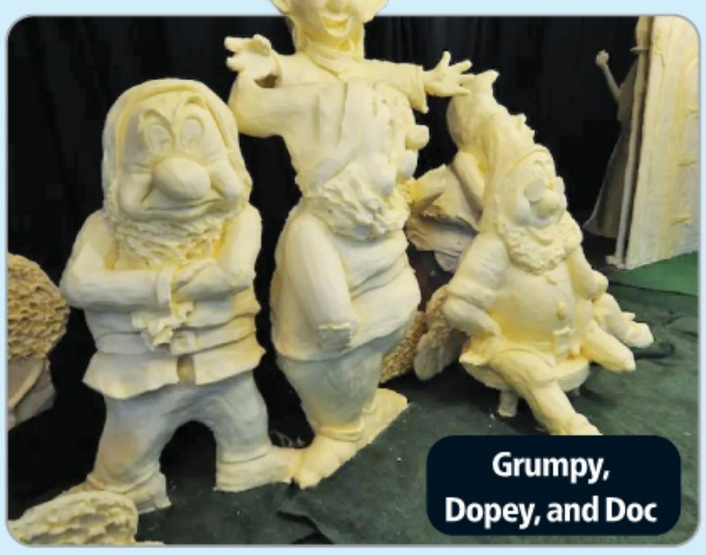
Spreading in popularity

When the Pilgrims came to America in 1620, they brought barrels of butter with them. In those years, butter was mainly churned by hand at home, and it was soon made on farms all over the US. In 1878, a Swedish scientist named Gustaf de Laval invented the first cream separator. This machine, which was able to separate cream (butterfat) from liquid milk, allowed larger amounts of butter to be produced on farms and in factories. In 1941, the invention of a continuous butter-making machine, which could churn larger quantities of cream, dramatically increased the speed and volume of butter making.

A butter board

New trends

Today, customers buying butter in stores have a choice of many different types, including salted, unsalted, ghee, whipped, cultured, plant-based, and European, which is richer than American butter because it is churned longer. Butter is now found in flavors that include cinnamon, truffle, miso, and pesto. One recent trend is the butter board, which first became popular in 2022 after a video went viral on social media. It is a board covered with softened butter, then sprinkled with sweet or savory toppings and served with bread for scooping. In 2023, global sales of butter exceeded $40 billion.



Grumpy, Dopey, and Doc

Caitlin Clark

In 2023, Pratt used her carving skills and hundreds of pounds of butter to create a life-size statue of the University of Iowa basketball star Caitlin Clark (right). Pratt re-created the popular sculpture again in 2024.

Caitlin Clark

An artist's rendering of a space rock before it strikes Earth

DID YOU KNOW?
More than 90% of space rocks don't reach Earth's surface because they burn up in the atmosphere.

Life-forms helped by meteorite

About 3.3 billion years ago, a huge rock from space hit Earth. It was about 200 times bigger than the asteroid that wiped out the dinosaurs about 66 million years ago, and new research shows that it may have helped life to thrive.

The massive meteorite (rock from space that falls to Earth's surface) was between 25 and 37 miles wide and is known as S2. Scientists first discovered S2 in 2014, based on the 300-mile-wide crater it created when it hit the surface in what is now South Africa. When S2 landed, Earth was very different from what it is today. Most of the planet was covered in water, with just a few areas of land. There was life on Earth, but it was very simple—only very tiny organisms had developed at this point.

The Barberton Makhonjwa Mountains

A team of researchers traveled to the Barberton Makhonjwa Mountains in South Africa to take samples of rock from near the meteorite crash site. They studied sediment (layers of material that are moved by wind or water and harden into rock) and chemicals in the rock.

Based on what they learned, they concluded that the impact was so powerful that it triggered a tsunami (very long, high wave), which churned up the seafloor and cast debris around. The crash also generated enormous amounts of energy, which made the oceans hot enough to boil and increased temperatures in the air by up to 212° F.

Despite all of this movement and destruction, the research shows that some organisms living on Earth bounced back very quickly because the impact provided them with minerals they needed to survive. The tsunami stirred iron from deep in the ocean and spread it around the globe, and the meteorite contained phosphorus. This helped life-forms that lived off of iron and phosphorus to bloom.

Nadja Drabon, a geologist at Harvard University in Massachusetts, led the study. She said the findings add more evidence to the theory that the space rocks that used to hit Earth billions of years ago served a purpose. "We think of impact events as being disastrous for life," Drabon said. "But what this study is highlighting is that these impacts would have had benefits to life, especially early on, and might have actually allowed life to flourish."

Major impact craters

Wolfe Creek Crater

According to the Planetary and Space Science Centre in Canada, there are 190 confirmed impact craters on Earth that were created by space rocks. One of these is the Wolfe Creek Crater in Australia, which scientists think was created 120,000 years ago. A range of wildlife, including cockatoos and a type of lizard called the ring-tailed dragon, lives in the crater.

In Canada, the Pingualuit Crater has filled with rainwater to form a lake that is 876 feet deep. In Germany, people have built a town called Nördlinger within the Nördlinger Ries crater. Residents of the town used to think it was a volcanic crater until the 1960s, when researchers discovered it was created by an impact.

Spacesuit for NASA Moon mission revealed

NASA, the US space agency, has revealed the latest version of a new spacesuit for its Artemis III mission to the Moon. Called the Axiom Extravehicular Mobility Unit (AxEMU), it was designed by Axiom Space, a private space exploration company, and the luxury fashion company Prada.

The Artemis III mission aims to send humans to the lunar surface for the first time since 1972. It will include the first woman and first person of color to go to the Moon and will be the first to reach the lunar south pole.

HEAVY GEAR
The spacesuit worn by the first astronauts to walk on the Moon, in 1969, weighed 200 pounds on Earth.

The AxEMU suit is NASA's first new spacesuit in more than 40 years and has been modernized to fit men and women with a wide range of body types. It will keep astronauts safe in extreme lunar conditions while also making them more comfortable and providing better mobility than previous suits did. The suit will improve their ability to walk, twist, and bend to pick up rocks or equipment.

The AxEMU has cooling technology and can provide nutrition to astronauts while they're wearing it. The helmet includes lights and a high-definition camera. Axiom said the suit will allow astronauts to spend at least eight hours on spacewalks and can withstand the extremely cold temperatures at the south pole for at least two hours. "It is a true celebration of the power of human creativity and innovation to advance civilization," said a Prada spokesperson.

NASA plans to launch the Artemis III mission as soon as September 2026.

The new lunar suit

The eggs embedded in rock

Tiny dinosaur eggs found in China

Scientists in China have discovered 80-million-year-old dinosaur eggs that are the smallest ever found. They were well preserved and may belong to a previously unknown relative of the Tyrannosaurus rex.

The six eggs were unearthed in 2021 at a construction site near the city of Ganzhou in southeastern China, a region known for having many dinosaur eggs. Each one is about the size of a grape. The smallest measures just over an inch.

Using non-invasive technology, including powerful microscopes, scientists studied the shells and their contents. They also examined the rock the eggs were found in, which was from the Late Cretaceous period (100.5 to 66 million years ago).

The team said the eggs belonged to a species of bipedal (walking on two legs) non-bird theropod dinosaur, which includes the T. rex. They will keep working to learn more about the creature that laid them.

AMAZING INVENTION

Wind power that travels with you

The Shine 2.0

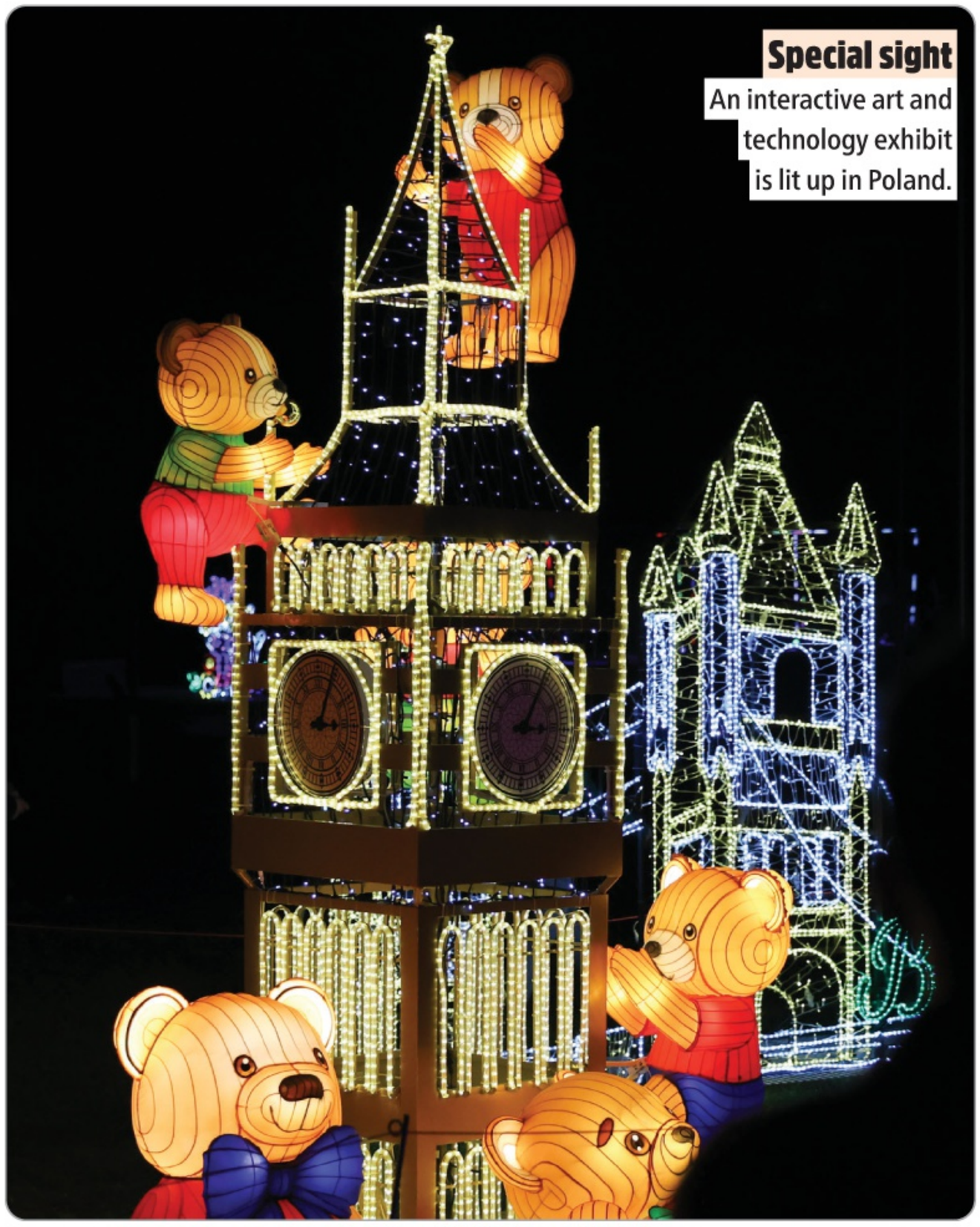
Whether you're out in the wild or just on the go, you might need to charge a device without access to electricity. A portable wind turbine called the Shine 2.0 makes that possible. With the right wind conditions, the device can generate enough power to charge a phone in 17 minutes and a laptop in less than two hours.

Weighing about 3 pounds, the Shine 2.0 has three blades that are 23.6 inches long but can fold down to fit into a backpack. It also includes a rechargeable battery that provides power on days when there's no wind.

COURTESY PRADA; CHINA UNIVERSITY OF GEOSCIENCES (WUHAN); AUREA TECHNOLOGIES; ON LEFT PAGE: ALAMY; GETTY IMAGES; MAURITSHUIS

Photos of the week

Game on
Robot soccer players compete at the RoboCup tournament in China.



Special sight
An interactive art and technology exhibit is lit up in Poland.

GETTY IMAGES (6)

Photos of the week

Soaring high
Birds fly at sunrise over a lake in China.

Light bright
Children carry lanterns in a parade in Germany.

Totally tidal
A visitor catches a wave at Scotland's first inland surf resort.

Honoring tradition
An ancient Hindu festival takes place in Nepal.

HOT SHOT
In 1960, Los Angeles Lakers forward Elgin Baylor became the first NBA player to score 70 or more points in a game.

Evan Mobley of the Cleveland Cavaliers (right) blocks Brandon Miller of the Charlotte Hornets on November 17

Tournament begins

Emirates NBA CUP

The NBA's second in-season tournament, now called the NBA Cup, began on November 12. Fans can recognize the games because they are played on colorful courts. The members of the eight teams that make it to the quarterfinals and beyond earn cash prizes.

A week of exciting moments in the NBA

The NBA (National Basketball Association) season is in full swing. Recently, there were several memorable and historic moments.

One team that has gotten off to a dominant start is the Cleveland Cavaliers. On November 17, they improved their record to 15–0 after a 128–114 win over the Charlotte Hornets. With the victory, they tied the 1993–1994 Houston Rockets for the second-longest winning streak to begin an NBA season.

Victor Wembanyama

November 13 was a big night for three of the NBA's star players. In a game where the San Antonio Spurs beat the Washington Wizards, 139–130, Spurs center Victor Wembanyama—age 20 and the number one overall pick in the 2023 NBA Draft—scored a career-high 50 points. The same night, Milwaukee Bucks forward Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 59 points in a 127–120 overtime win against the Detroit Pistons. At the time, it was the most points by a player in a single game this season.

Meanwhile, during the Los Angeles Lakers' 128–123 win over the Memphis Grizzlies, Lakers legend LeBron James racked up his third consecutive triple-double (double digits in three statistical categories). He scored 35 points, made 14 assists, and grabbed 12 rebounds. James, age 39, is now the oldest player in league history to record three straight triple-doubles. Two days later, he notched his fourth consecutive triple-double in a 120–115 win over the Spurs.

Other players hit milestones on November 15. Chris Paul of the Spurs made the 12,000th assist of his NBA career, the third-most in the league, while De'Aaron Fox of the Sacramento Kings scored 60 points, a franchise record and season high.

A thrilling game on November 16 featured the Boston Celtics beating the Toronto Raptors in overtime, 126–123. On the final play, Celtics star Jayson Tatum knocked down a deep three-point shot as the buzzer sounded. On November 17, James Harden of the Los Angeles Clippers scored his own important long-range shot. During a 116–105 win over the Utah Jazz, Harden made his 2,974th career three-pointer, which bumped him up to the second-most in NBA history.

THIS WEEK'S WINNERS...

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

On November 15, the University of Connecticut (UConn) beat the University of North Carolina, 69–58. UConn's Paige Bueckers had 29 points, and it was coach Geno Auriemma's 1,216th career win, tying him for the most of any head coach in men's or women's Division 1 basketball. Two days later, the University of South Carolina defeated East Carolina University, 95–44, for their 42nd straight victory.

Nelly Korda

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

On November 17, the Buffalo Bills beat the Kansas City Chiefs, 30–21, handing the Chiefs their first loss of the season. In the fourth quarter, Bills quarterback Josh Allen ran for a 26-yard touchdown to help seal the win.

GOLF

American Nelly Korda, the world's top-ranked women's golfer, pulled off a stunning comeback to win The Annika tournament on November 17. It was her seventh tour win this year.

GAME HISTORY
The sport of rugby got its name because it was created at Rugby School in England.

A match between PR7s All-Stars and Canada on November 17

Rugby stars compete in tournament

On November 17, many of the best rugby players in North America competed in the 2024 PR7s All-Star Tournament. It was held at Providence Park in Portland, Oregon, and featured athletes from Premier Rugby Sevens—a league that has eight men's teams and eight women's teams—plus the US men's and women's national teams and the Canadian women's national team.

Rugby is a sport similar to football, and the main version is rugby union. It is traditionally played with 15 players on a side in matches that have 40-minute halves. In rugby sevens, each team has seven players on the field at once and halves are seven minutes long. Rugby sevens was one of the sports at the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris, France. Team Canada won the women's silver there, while Team USA earned the women's bronze. The sport will be part of the 2028 Olympics in Los Angeles, California.

During the tournament in Portland, there were six matches. All three men's competitions were between Team USA and the PR7 All-Stars, and the US won them all. The most thrilling match was the second one, which the US won, 36–34. Team USA's Lucas Le Camp, who was later named men's Most Valuable Player (MVP), made standout plays on both offense and defense.

In the women's matches, Team Canada beat the PR7 All-Stars, 27–0. The US followed with a 22–12 win over the PR7 All-Stars, thanks in part to a strong performance by Kayla Thomas. The final match was between Team USA and Team Canada, and the Canadians won, 26–5. Hogan Rochester of Canada was named the women's MVP.

COACH OF THE WEEK

Coach's Name: **Liam Watt**

Team: **James Island Soccer Club**

"Coach Liam is the best soccer coach you could imagine. He motivates us to try harder and tells us what our mistakes are if we do something wrong. We work on technical skills and fun possession rondos, and every Thursday we scrimmage with him. He teaches us to be quick on the ball, keep our heads up, and scan the field to make fast decisions. In games, he pulls us aside to teach us in the moment. He also gives great nicknames." James ("Jimbo"), 8, South Carolina

To nominate a Coach of the Week, send your coach's name, photo, sport, and team to *hello@theweekjunior.com.* Include your name, age, state, and a few reasons why your coach is great.

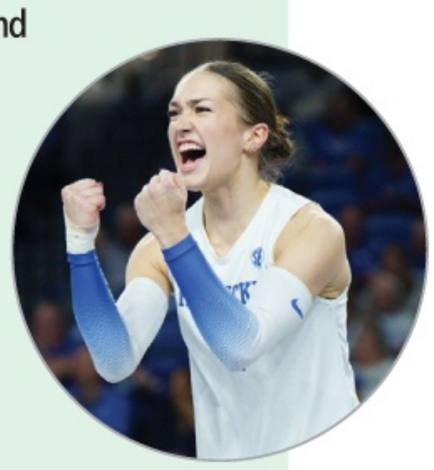
SPOTLIGHT ON...

Emma Grome

AGE: 22 SPORT: VOLLEYBALL
TEAM: UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

Early start My mom coached volleyball for many years, and my sister played too, so I lived in the gym before I could even touch a ball. I liked the sport because it was competitive, fun, and fast-paced. I liked the strategy of setting and decision-making.

Role models I'm a setter, and I always watched setters Lauren Carlini and Courtney Thompson. Before I was at Kentucky, I watched Madison Lilley, who was a great setter and leader here.



Top supporters My parents always looked to give me every opportunity they could find, whether it was camps, clinics, or setter work in the house. They knew the potential I had even if I didn't see it.

Training plan I practice for 20 hours a week with the team and also do individual work. We're always working on training our eyes and our minds in addition to our bodies. All those things are important to good setting.

Keeping cool For a big match, I focus on what I can do for my team. I make sure to stay consistent and know my game plan and scouting reports.

Big win A lot of people didn't believe I'd be able to play at this level based on my height (I'm 5-foot-9), skill, and other factors. It's rewarding to know that putting in the work has been worth it.

Next goals I'd love to play pro indoor volleyball or do a fifth year at the college level and play beach volleyball. I'm keeping my opportunities open.

Best advice Get in the gym whenever you can. Never stop looking for ways to improve your game.

PRSEVENS.COM; KENTUCKY ATHLETICS (2); ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (3)

WOW!
When the teaser-trailer for *Moana 2* was released in the spring, it became the most watched trailer in Disney history.

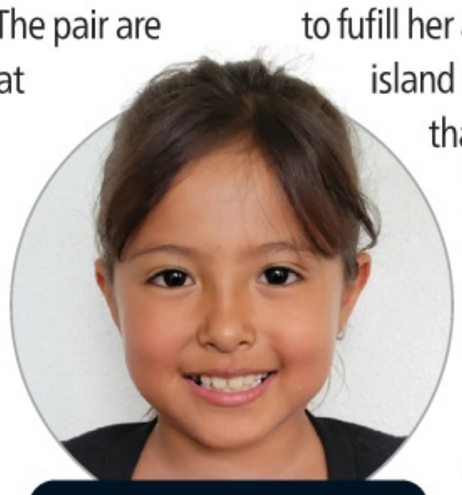
Moana 2

A new *Moana* adventure

In *Moana 2*, the Polynesian princess reunites with demigod Maui as she tries to break an ancient curse.

In 2016, audiences fell in love with *Moana*, the animated musical about a strong-willed teen princess who goes on an epic ocean journey with Maui, a shape-shifting demigod. The pair are returning in a sequel, *Moana 2*, that features new characters, new music, and an exciting new adventure. It arrives in theaters on November 27.

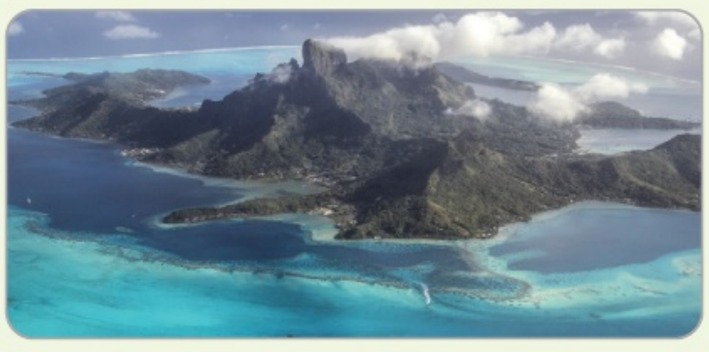
Moana lives in ancient Polynesia, and in the first film, she embraced her calling as a wayfinder, someone skilled in the art of navigating the ocean using the sun, stars, and other signs in nature. The new film begins three years after the original, with Moana hoping to fufill her ancestors' mission of connecting her island with all the others in the ocean. Before that can happen, she must find a hidden island and break a curse. She sets off with a crew of seafarers and once again gets an assist from Maui.


Khaleesi Lambert-Tsuda

The first Moana film had original music by *Hamilton* creator and *Encanto* composer Lin-Manuel Miranda. The music in *Moana 2* was composed by award-winning songwriters Abigail Barlow and Emily Bear, Disney's first female songwriting duo. Still, the film's stars remain the same, with Auli'i Cravalho voicing Moana and Dwayne Johnson voicing Maui.

One of the film's new characters is Simea, Moana's 3½-year-old sister, who is voiced by Khaleesi Lambert-Tsuda. She told *The Week Junior* the little girl is "happy, confident, and energetic" and wants to be like her older sister. She said she is excited for audiences to meet Simea and learn a lesson from the film: "Be adventurous and follow your dreams."

3 facts about Polynesia



Location
Polynesia is a vast region of more than 1,000 islands in the east-central Pacific Ocean. It includes Hawaii, New Zealand, Tahiti, and Samoa. Some of the Polynesian islands were formed by volcanoes, while others are made from coral reefs.

Common food
Taro, a starchy root vegetable (below), is grown in many Polynesian countries. The part that is usually eaten is the corm, which is the bulb of the stem that grows underground. It is often roasted and sliced or boiled and mashed.

Ancient practice
Canoeing was a large part of ancient Polynesian culture and was vital for trade. The region is known for outrigger canoes (above), which have an attached support float that helps with steadiness while paddling in the ocean.

Out of My Mind

DID YOU KNOW?
The first modern electric wheelchair was invented in 1953 by George Klein of Canada.

Popular book becomes film

Out of My Mind—the first book in a best-selling series by author Sharon M. Draper—has been turned into a film of the same name. It is a story about a girl named Melody who has cerebral palsy, a movement disorder that makes it impossible for her to talk or write. Most people don't realize Melody is very smart, but once she is given a chance to be in a mainstream classroom and receives a communication device, she shows the world who she is inside. The film is now on Disney+.

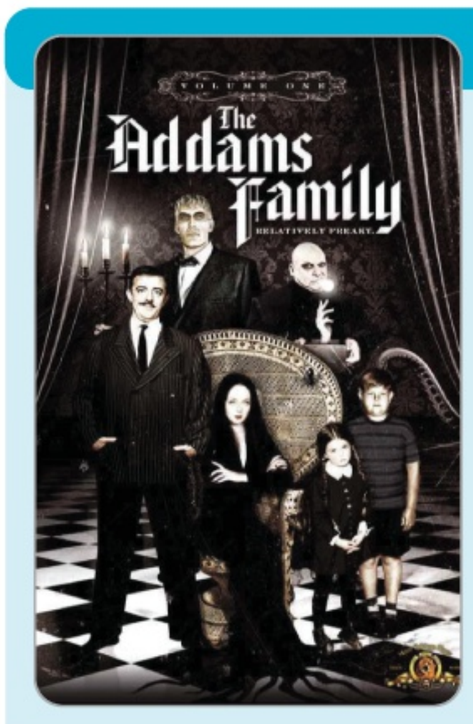
Amber Sealey, the director of *Out of My Mind*, told *The Week Junior* that Melody is like any other tween: "She has hopes, dreams, crushes, and insecurities. She wants to be listened to, regarded, considered, and loved—just like we all do." To cast the part, the filmmakers searched the globe for an actress with cerebral palsy who used a wheelchair. They chose Phoebe-Rae Taylor, now 15, who is from England and had no acting experience. "Showing other children who have disabilities that it's OK to be themselves and that they are enough exactly as they are was so important to her," Sealey said.

Jennifer Aniston

Melody's thoughts are voiced by Jennifer Aniston, a star of *Friends*, a sitcom Melody loves. The idea to use Aniston was inspired by Taylor, who is also a fan. That detail is one of several differences between the book and the film. Despite the changes, Sealey said the heart of the film is still about "a girl struggling to get her inner thoughts and feelings out into the world."

One of *Out of My Mind*'s big messages is to presume people with disabilities are competent. Sealey hopes it will shift how kids react if they meet someone nonverbal or in a wheelchair. "Rather than be scared or mean, be curious," she said.

READER RECOMMENDS



The Addams Family *(Pluto TV, YouTube, Roku Channel, or buy on major streaming platforms)*

"There have been many shows and movies starring the Addams Family, but I like the original black-and-white TV series from the 1960s. It is hilarious, and I like that it is old-fashioned and you get to hear audience laughter in the background. I love the character Thing—there is no word to describe him. There is also a very catchy theme song. Plus, you don't have to watch the episodes in order because there is no main storyline that you have to follow. If you like silly humor, you will love this show." Goldie, 10, Virginia

Do you have a film or TV show to recommend to other kids? Send your review to *hello@theweekjunior.com*.

THIS WEEK'S WATCH LIST

Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade
(NBC) November 28 at 8:30 a.m. ET

The world's largest parade will be traveling through New York City for its 98th year. Among the 22 balloons to watch for will be Po from *Kung Fu Panda* and an all-new Spider-Man. Also tune in to see floats, musical performances, school marching bands, and celebrities.

Nature: Attenborough's Life Journey
(PBS)

Sir David Attenborough, age 98, turned a childhood passion for fossil hunting into a career as a world-famous naturalist, broadcaster, and climate advocate. This documentary traces his life story and features behind-the-scenes footage, interviews, and stunning nature scenes.

The Creature Cases
(Netflix)

Sam Snow and Kit Casey are cats who work at a detective organization in a world populated only by animals. They travel around to solve quirky mysteries using animal facts, spy skills, and helpful gadgets. The new fourth chapter of the series premieres on November 25.

DISNEY/MICHAEL GIBSON; GETTY IMAGES; MGM; MACY'S INC.; ANGUS YOUNG/ATLANTIC PRODUCTIONS; COURTESY OF NETFLIX; ON LEFT PAGE: DISNEY; COURTESY OF DISNEY; GETTY IMAGES (3)

WILD RIDE
The world's tallest, fastest, and longest roller coaster is currently being built at Six Flags Qiddiya City in Saudi Arabia.

Planet Coaster 2

Create a fun-filled theme park

Planet Coaster 2 is a new theme park simulation game. It was recently released for the PlayStation 5, Xbox Series X, and PC.

The first Planet Coaster game came out in 2016. In the series, you can design and build a theme park from scratch and run it. You start by finding land, then you get into choosing items such as entrance gates, turnstiles, and bricks for the paths to the rides, shops, and snacks.

The new game has 54 roller coaster options, including classic wooden styles, wild ones with gigantic drops, and thrillers with inverted seats that dangle passengers in the air. Every ride in the game is based on a real coaster. You can also build water parks, adding a new dimension to the game. There are five themes that can be applied to a park. They include Mythology, which is inspired by ancient Greece; Viking, which has staff members dressed as Norse warriors; and the classic Planet Coaster theme, with mascots Queen Splash and King Coaster.

Queen Splash

In Sandbox mode, you can have fun building a park without worrying about the design or how it operates. In Career mode, the challenge is to create a park on a budget, which means thinking about elements such as ticket fees, employee salaries, and ways to please guests. The newest mode, Franchise, gives you the opportunity to check out other people's parks online and compete to see who brings in the most visitors and makes the most cash. You can spend as long as you want exploring their designs and getting inspiration for your own fantasy destinations.

PODCAST OF THE WEEK

RANGER RAE AND THE WILDLIFERS

Major podcast platforms

The National Trust, a UK-based charity, created this series that features Ranger Rae, her apprentice, Roxy, and a crew of animals going on nature adventures. They tackle challenges such as rescuing hikers and looking for missing frog eggs.

WEBSITE OF THE WEEK

INCREDIBOX

incredibox.com

Create music with this free online demo of a popular music-making app. To begin, you choose one of four atmospheres, then you get seven characters to dress up with hats, sunglasses, and other accessories that have their own beatbox sounds. Get creative with different combinations.

VIDEO OF THE WEEK

LAVA VS. LASERS—WHICH IS MORE DESTRUCTIVE?

tinyurl.com/TWJUS-LavaLasers

In this fun science video, engineer Mark Rober and his team conduct experiments to see if lava or lasers is the stronger force. They put objects that include glass bottles, popcorn, and matchsticks to the test. (Don't try anything like this at home!)

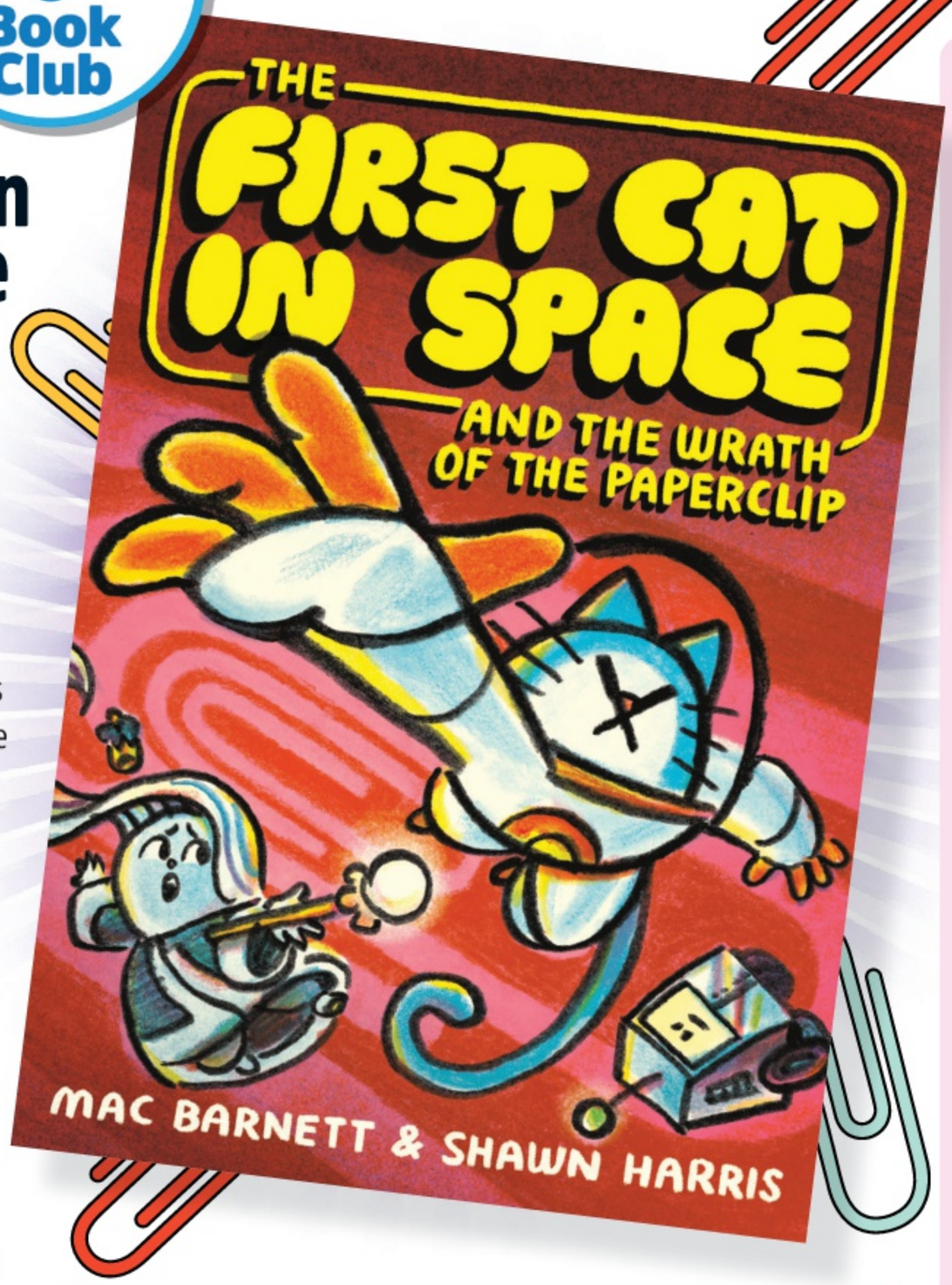
FRONTIER (2); NATIONAL TRUST; INCREDIBOX; MARK ROBER VIA YOUTUBE

OUR DECEMBER BOOK CLUB PICK

The First Cat in Space and the Wrath of the Paperclip

By Mac Barnett and Shawn Harris
(HarperAlley)

Long ago, on another planet, CheckMate, a computer program designed to correct grammar, was upset by the spelling errors people made. To stop mistakes forever, CheckMate invented a giant laser that would turn all life-forms into paperclips. But before the laser could be used, the planet exploded. One day, scientists discover the remains of CheckMate and send them to a lab for analysis. CheckMate comes back to life and infiltrates every computer on Earth, sending an army of AI robots to destroy the planet. The authorities call on the superhero First Cat to stop the invasion, but CheckMate steals the spacesuit that gives First Cat his powers. CheckMate is now on a mission to find the laser he created millions of years ago. With First Cat out of commission, who will stop CheckMate? Thanks to nonstop action, exciting art, and clever puns about grammar, the third book in this graphic novel series is out of this world.



WIN A BOOK!

We're giving away one signed copy of *The First Cat in Space, Book 3*.

For a chance to win, send your name and address to *contests@theweekjunior.com* with First Cat in the subject line. Enter by midnight on December 13. See theweekjunior.com/terms for complete rules.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR YOUR BOOK CLUB

The First Cat in Space and the Wrath of the Paperclip has a wild premise and hilarious dialogue. Here are questions to get a conversation going with others who have also read the book.

How do the words and art come together to tell the story?

What better way could CheckMate have reduced spelling errors?

How do First Cat and other characters in the book underestimate CheckMate?

What characteristics make CheckMate a good villain?

What are some benefits and drawbacks of AI in real life?

Is the book's ending what you expected? Why or why not?

If you've read one of the other books in the series, which one is your favorite and why?

JOIN *THE WEEK JUNIOR*'S BOOK CLUB

Watch a special video that Mac Barnett and Shawn Harris created for *The Week Junior* and learn about how our monthly book club works at kids.theweekjunior.com/bookclub.

Ask the author

Mac Barnett co-created *The First Cat in Space and the Wrath of the Paperclip* with his friend Shawn Harris. Barnett spoke to *The Week Junior* about how this third book in the graphic novel series came to be.

How did you come up with the idea of a spell-checking villain?

When I was growing up, there was a feature in Microsoft Word called Clippy. While you were typing, a paperclip would pop up and give you advice. You couldn't get rid of Clippy—it was so irritating!

When did you and Shawn Harris first meet?

We met when we were 7 years old and were put on the same soccer team. We became the type of friends who create comics, books, and music together, and that's still the basis of our friendship.

What's your creative process?

I write a chapter and send it to Shawn to sketch. Sometimes he'll draw a character in such a funny way that I decide I want to get that character into more of the story.

Have you and Shawn ever disagreed on a story?

Yes! Shawn wanted to create the character Captain Babybeard. I thought the idea was ridiculous, but Shawn insisted. We tried it, and, sure enough, everyone loves Captain Babybeard, who is a baby pirate in the series. He's grown on me, too!

What did you read growing up?

I loved reading fantasy novels, like *The Lord of the Rings* and *The Chronicles of Narnia*.

Any writing advice for kids?

You can figure out what you want to write about from reading books you love and from ones you don't like as much.

Do you have a cat?

No, I'm allergic to cats!

BOOK: COURTESY OF PUBLISHER; AUTHOR: CARSON ELLIS; GETTY IMAGES

DID YOU KNOW?
The word "gratitude" is derived from the Latin word *gratia*, which means grace, graciousness, or gratefulness.

Express your gratitude

Being thankful for what you have can make you happier and healthier.

You probably say "thank you" often—such as when a friend holds the door, a teacher stays after class to help you with a problem, or a grandparent sends a gift for your birthday. At Thanksgiving, we have a special opportunity to give thanks and reflect on what we are grateful for. Showing gratitude makes others feel good, but it also helps you feel more joyful and less sad or stressed, according to experts at Harvard University. It is also something you can practice year-round. Here's how.

Do a "gratitude search"

Start by taking a few minutes to think about what you're grateful for. Is it someone or something that makes you happy or makes you laugh? Is it someone you know—like a parent, teacher, or coach—who helps support you, even when you don't ask? Is it something that makes your life better? Maybe it's an activity or a hobby you enjoy doing with others. It can also be something you have that you realize others may not have.

Do a good deed.

Make it a habit

Try getting into the routine of noticing and thinking about the things you're grateful for while you're going about your day. You can jot them down in a notebook or write them on sticky notes and make a "gratitude wall" in your room. You could also write what you're grateful for on colorful scraps of paper and save them in a jar. Whenever you need a mood boost, you can take them out to remind yourself of what makes you feel happy and thankful.

Volunteer your skills

Giving your time to others helps them—but it can also benefit you, too. For example, if you rake the leaves or shovel snow for an elderly neighbor, you can take a moment to feel thankful that you were able to make their day easier. If you help a sibling with their homework, you can feel good about sharing your knowledge.

Share thanks with family

Thanksgiving is a perfect time to exchange feelings of gratitude with family. At the dinner table, you can suggest that each person takes a turn to share at least one thing they feel thankful for. You can also discuss taking a meditative "gratitude walk" between dinner and dessert, to appreciate the company of the people in your life and the natural beauty of the outdoors. You could even follow the holiday with a note of thanks to family members you love. (See the box at right.)

Thank-you notes

Whether you're thanking someone for a gift, their time, or just for being great, here's how to write a note to be proud of.

Start with a greeting. Begin with the person's name: "Dear _____" (fill in their name).

Be specific. Clearly write about why you're thanking the person. You can use phrases like "Thank you for the..." and "I am grateful for...." Then explain why you're thankful. If someone did something kind, tell them how that helped you. If they gave you a gift, add what you love about it.

Sign your name to end the note. You can use "Warmly," "Sincerely," "Love," or whatever you wish before your name.

WARNING!
Ask an adult's permission before using a knife or the blender.

Whip up an apple pie smoothie

Ingredients

- ½ cup old-fashioned rolled oats
- 2 apples, diced, plus slices for serving (optional)
- 1 cup whole-milk Greek yogurt
- 1 teaspoon apple pie spice (or ¼ teaspoon each cinnamon, nutmeg, allspice, and ginger)
- ¼ cup maple syrup
- 1 cup crushed Ice

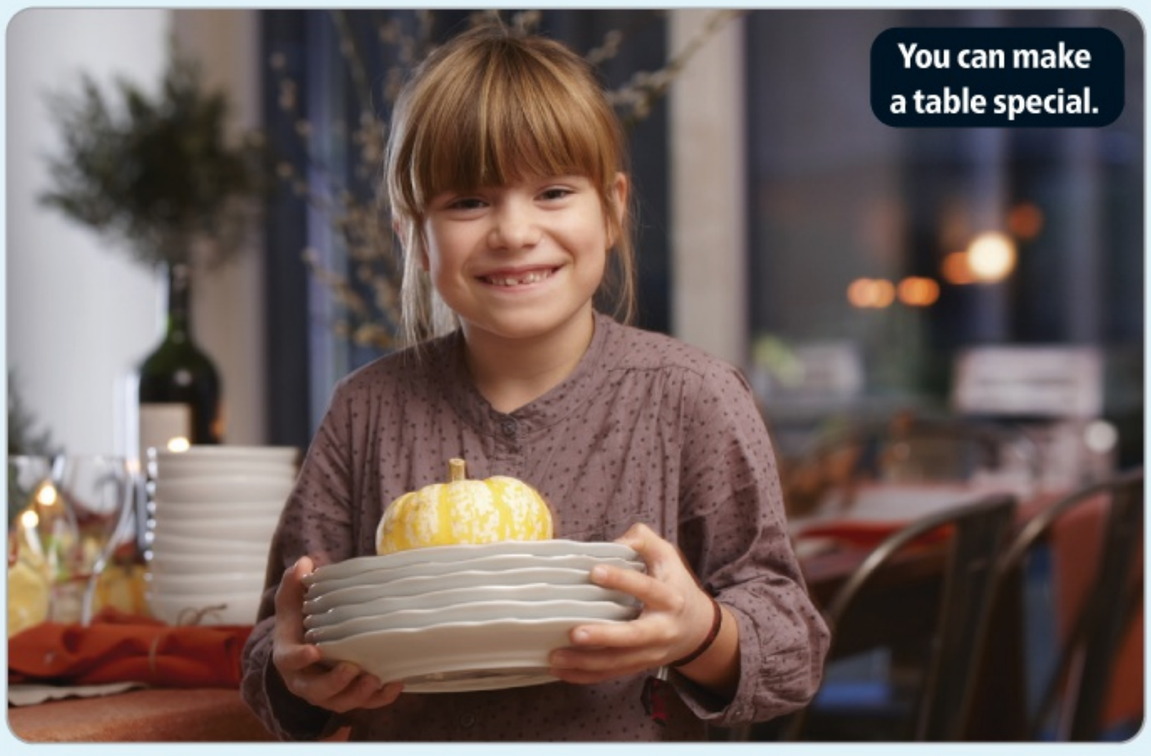
Instructions

1. Add the oats to the blender and pulse a few times to pulverize.
2. Add the remaining ingredients and blend until smooth.
3. Divide smoothie between 2 glasses and serve immediately. Makes 2 servings.

FRUIT FAVORITES
In a 2023 survey, Honeycrisp was found to be the most popular apple variety in the US, followed by Fuji, Gala, and Granny Smith.

LIFE HACK SET THE TABLE FOR DINNER

When your family shares a meal, especially for the holidays, setting the table can make it more festive. First, decide with an adult whether you will follow a color scheme to match the holiday, such as red, orange, and yellow for Thanksgiving. Cover the table with a tablecloth or put placemats in front of each seat. Next, set out a dinner plate for each person. Ask an adult if you also need to add a soup bowl or salad plate on top. Next, set a glass to the top right of the plate. To the left of each plate, add a napkin with a fork on top. Place a knife to the right of the plate with the sharp side facing it, and set a spoon to the right of each knife. Add personalized placecards or other decorations as desired.



You can make a table special.

ERICA CLARK FOR STONE KITCHEN CREATIVE; GETTY IMAGES; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES

Puzzles

Crisscross

Each of these things associated with Thanksgiving fits into this grid. Can you find where each one goes to complete the grid?

4 letters
CORN
FORK
PANS
YAMS

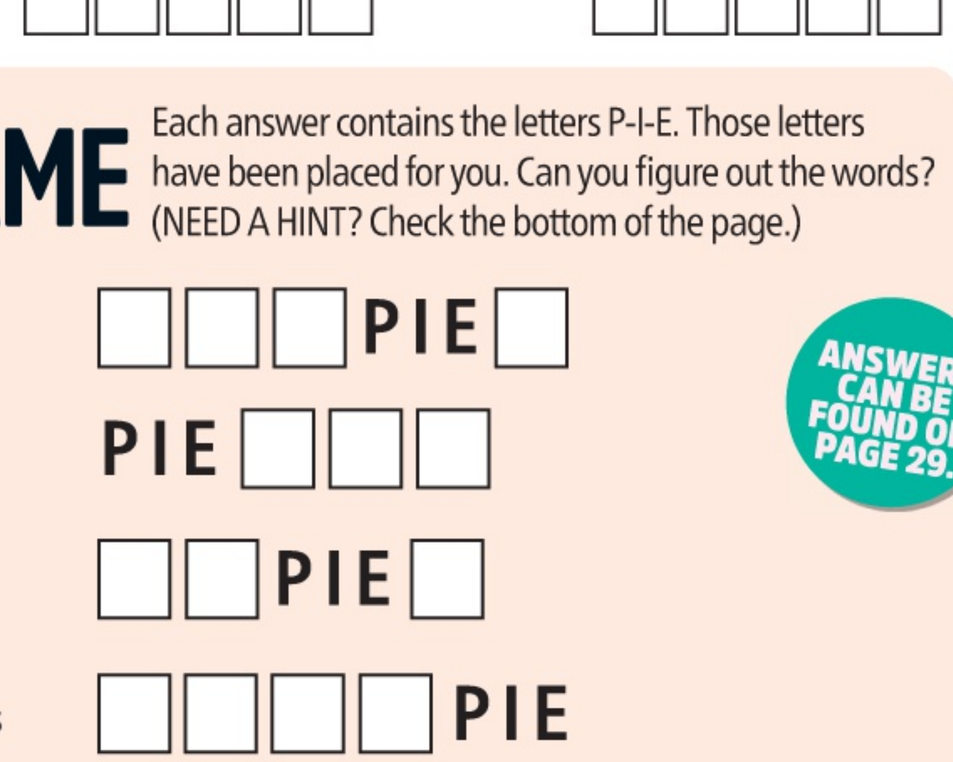
5 letters
BEANS
CIDER
GRAVY
ROLLS

6 letters
AUTUMN
DINNER

8 letters
DARK MEAT
STUFFING

9 letters
DRUMSTICK
LEFTOVERS
TRADITION

10 letters
CORNUCOPIA
PUMPKIN PIE



Take five

Five 5-letter words associated with football are hidden in this grid. For each one, the first letter is somewhere in the first column, the second is somewhere in the second column, and so on. Can you find all five?

Y	O	R	T	D
S	I	A	L	Z
F	A	I	A	S
B	Q	E	C	D
C	L	U	D	H

ALL THE SAME

Each answer contains the letters P-I-E. Those letters have been placed for you. Can you figure out the words? (NEED A HINT? Check the bottom of the page.)

1. Long-haired wearers of bell-bottoms in the 1960s — ☐☐☐PIE☐
2. Puncture — PIE☐☐☐
3. Machine used to duplicate documents — ☐☐PIE☐
4. Brand of permanent markers — ☐☐☐☐PIE
5. Fancy decoration in the middle of a Thanksgiving table — ☐☐☐☐☐☐PIE☐☐

ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 29.

SUDOKU

To complete the grid, place the numbers from 1 to 6 exactly once in each row, column, and 2x3 bold-lined box.

	2		5		
3				2	
			3		4
6		3			
	1				3
		6		1	

Spot the difference

These two pictures of dairy cows appear to be the same, but take a closer look. There are actually five differences. Can you see them?

PUZZLES BY PUZZABILITY

That's unbelievable!

Students see unicorns at library

Unicorns were seen parading through the State Library in Sydney, Australia. The library organized the stunt to bring joy to stressed-out students who were studying for their exams. Librarian Caroline Butler-Bowdon said the library wanted to do something for the hardworking students, so people dressed up in unicorn costumes and a voice announced through a loudspeaker, "Students: If you are seeing unicorns in the reading room, it means you need a break." Patrons then paused to take videos and photos with the unicorns.

A color-coding candy champion

An Idaho man who has collected more than 250 Guinness World Records titles recently bagged a delicious new one. David Rush put his skills to the test by sorting more than a pound of Peanut M&M's candies by color in 57 seconds. Rush had previously achieved the feat in 1 minute and 14 seconds, but after someone beat his record, retaking the title wasn't easy. Rush said he faced "hilarious obstacles," such as when his daughter poured water on the M&M's and his sons made them "magically disappear." Still, Rush said, "I persevered."

Art with an edible canvas

The artist Andy Warhol (1928–1987) brought the "pop art" movement to life with his paintings of celebrities and everyday items, such as bananas and cans of soup. Now a food artist from the UK is making this art form edible. Nathan Wyburn spent 10 hours and used more than 120 toaster pastries to create a "Pop-Tart" picture of the famous actress Marilyn Monroe, which is very similar to one of Warhol's best-known artworks. Wyburn said the pastry portrait "really captures the true essence of pop art—making the ordinary extraordinary."

Serving astroshakes in space

Hungry astronauts could soon be sipping on milkshakes made from asteroids—rocky objects in space that orbit the Sun. Although astronauts have tried growing lettuce leaves on the International Space Station, almost all the food eaten in space is transported from Earth. Now scientists are looking for alternative sources of space food. Bacteria would be used to convert carbon from asteroids into food, resulting in a nutritionally balanced meal that looks similar to a caramel milkshake. Is this story real, or have we blended in a lie?*

*Real! Scientists hope to test the project on coal first. Then, in the near future, they want to try it on meteorites (space rocks that have fallen to Earth). The technique could be useful for feeding astronauts during longer missions, such as trips to Mars.

STATE LIBRARY OF NSW; GETTY IMAGES (2); ALAMY; DIMITRIS LEGAKIS/PINPEP; NASA; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (3)

Your turn

Editor's note

This week we are getting ready for Thanksgiving by offering ideas for making the holiday extra special (p24). During dinner, for example, many families have a tradition of taking turns saying what they are grateful for. Other options for showing your appreciation on the holiday (or anytime!) are taking a gratitude walk and putting up a gratitude wall. Or you may have your own ideas for ways to express your thanks. No matter how you do it, you'll be making others (and yourself!) feel more joyful. This year I have so much to be thankful for, including a loving family and wonderful friends. I am also thankful for the talented people I work with at *The Week Junior* and all of YOU—our readers! It is a privilege to create this magazine for you each week. From all of us to you and your families, thank you for reading *The Week Junior* and happy Thanksgiving!

Andrea Barbalich
Editor-in-Chief

CHARITY OF THE WEEK

Boys and Girls Clubs of America

Founded in 1906, this organization serves about 3.6 million children through its 5,000 clubs across the US. It offers after-school programs, art classes, sports activities, guidance from trained mentors, and more. The programs are designed to empower children to excel in school and reach their full potential.

Find out more at bgca.org.

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF AMERICA

Petitioning on behalf of salamanders

Max, 9, Washington, DC

"I am a fourth grader at Powell Elementary School in Washington, DC. During the pandemic, when it was boring, we went herping in Rock Creek Park. Herping is looking for reptiles and amphibians. We found red-backed salamanders. My mom thought that if there wasn't an official amphibian for Washington, DC, why not the red-backed salamander? I made a petition and my friends signed it. My teacher, Ms. Pence, helped us write the resolution and prepared us to testify in front of the DC Council. Staff members from the council also came to our school to teach us about how to make a bill. We are hoping the salamander gets picked."

Have you done something interesting or raised money for a cause you care about? Whatever you're up to, we want to hear about it at *hello@theweekjunior.com*.

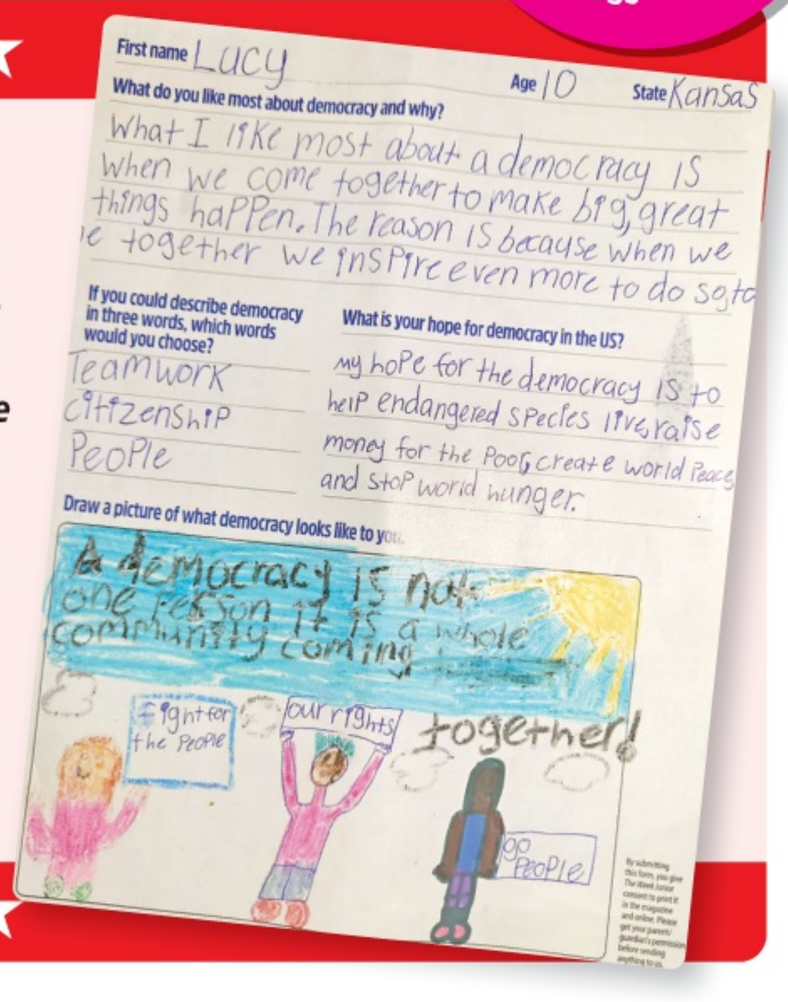
RIDDLE OF THE WEEK

What do you break in order to fix them?

Eggs

Your dream for the nation

Lucy, age 10, of Kansas likes that in a democracy, people can come together and make great things happen. She hopes leaders will help endangered species and create world peace. As a reader of *The Week Junior*, you may be forming opinions about your hopes for the US. If so, we want to hear them! Go to kids.theweekjunior.com/activities to download a form like the one at right. Fill it out, then have an adult email it to us at *hello@theweekjunior.com*. We'll feature some of the submissions on this page in future issues.



Your turn

YOUR PHOTOS

We'd love to see pictures you've taken or pictures with you in them! Have an adult email them to us at *hello@theweekjunior.com*, along with anything you would like us to know about what's happening in the photo.

"I loved making the meat-free and delicious pinto bean empanadas!" Kate, 9, Virginia

"We took *The Week Junior* on our Niagara Falls boat ride." Jake, 12, and Benjamin, 9, New Jersey

"I think the Lego Star Wars: Rebuild the Galaxy series is great for all ages! Thanks for the recommendation, *The Week Junior*!" Harper, 9, Georgia

Teacher OF THE WEEK

Teacher's Name: **Lisa Hauschild**

School: **Sanford School**

"Mrs. Lisa Hauschild is my math tutor. When I went into middle school, I was insecure about math, but her big smile and positive attitude changed that. When we work together, I always feel more confident because she is so patient and kind. I now feel like I know what is going on in math class for the first time ever. Every time I do well on a problem, she shouts with glee."

Riley, 10, Delaware

Nominate your teacher for Teacher of the Week!
Send your reason for the nomination, a photo of your teacher, and your school's name and address to *hello@theweekjunior.com*.

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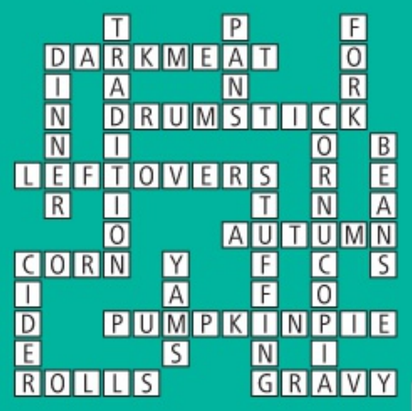
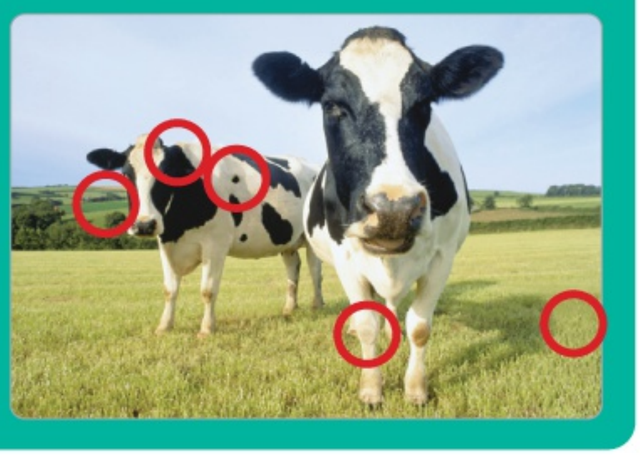
Puzzle answers (from page 26)



Take five
yards
squad
field
blitz
coach

All the same
1. hippies
2. pierce
3. copier
4. Sharpie
5. centerpiece

1	2	4	5	3	6
3	6	5	4	2	1
2	5	1	3	6	4
6	4	3	1	5	2
5	1	2	6	4	3
4	3	6	2	1	5



Quiz answers (from page 30) **1** True **2** a) Cleveland Cavaliers **3** c) My Little Pony **4** False. They have more wrinkles on the left side. **5** CheckMate **6** c) Prada **7** b) Jennifer Aniston **8** Aurochs **9** b) Harriet Tubman **10** Port Lockroy **11** False. It was about 200 times bigger. **12** a) Career **13** *The Night Watch* **14** True **15** c) Unicorns

We want to hear from you! To have your letters, photos, nominations, recommendations, or ideas considered for inclusion in the magazine, please include your full name, age, and state with your submission. By emailing your submission to us, you give *The Week Junior* consent to publish it in the magazine and online. Please get your parent/guardian's permission before sending anything to us.

Quiz

How much of this week's news can you remember?

1 True or false? The average American eats about 25 sticks of butter per year.

True ☐ False ☐

2 Which NBA team started the season with a historic 15–0 record?

a) Cleveland Cavaliers
b) Golden State Warriors
c) Oklahoma City Thunder

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

3 Which toy was inducted into the National Toy Hall of Fame this year?

a) Apples to Apples b) Sequence
c) My Little Pony

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

4 True or false? Left-trunked elephants have more wrinkles on the right side of their trunk.

True ☐ False ☐

5 In the book *The First Cat in Space and the Wrath of the Paperclip*, who is First Cat trying to stop?

---

6 NASA worked with what luxury fashion company to make new AxEMU spacesuits?

a) Dior b) Gucci c) Prada

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

7 Which *Friends* actress voices Melody's inner thoughts in the film *Out of My Mind*?

a) Courteney Cox b) Jennifer Aniston
c) Lisa Kudrow

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

8 What extinct species is believed to be the ancestor of modern cattle?

11

8

12

ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 29.

6

2

9 Maryland recently gave which historical figure the rank of general for her service during the Civil War?

a) Ida B. Wells
b) Harriet Tubman
c) Sojourner Truth

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

10 The southernmost post office in the world is on an island in Antarctica called what?

---

11 True or false? The meteorite S2, which hit Earth about 3.3 billion years ago, was smaller than the asteroid that killed the dinosaurs.

True ☐ False ☐

12 In the video game Planet Coaster 2, which mode challenges players to create a theme park on a budget?

a) Career b) Sandbox c) Franchise

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

13 What is the name of the Rembrandt painting that's being publicly restored at the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam?

---

14 True or false? Abigail Barlow and Emily Bear are the first female songwriting duo to compose music for a Disney film.

True ☐ False ☐

15 People dressed as what fantastical creatures paraded through the State Library in Sydney, Australia?

a) Dragons b) Ogres c) Unicorns

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

THE WEEK Junior

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ALAMY; FRONTIER; GETTY IMAGES (3)

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THE WEEK Junior

CLEVER CLIMBERS

Opossums, the only pouched mammals in North America, are slow walkers but excellent climbers and are often seen in the branches of trees.

GETTY IMAGES